

August 23, 2016

A work session of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., August 23, 2016.

Members present: Mayor Robert T. Wandrei; Councilman Tim Black; Councilman Robert D. Carson; Councilman Stacey L. Hailey; Vice Mayor Steve C. Rush; Councilman Beckham A. Stanley (arrived at 6:40 p.m.); and Councilman James A. Vest

Members absent: None

Staff present: Town Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; Assistant Town Manager Bart Warner; Finance Director Sonia Jammes; Chief of Police Todd Foreman; Public Works Director D. W. Lawhorne; Electric Director John Wagner; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher

Mayor Wandrei opened the meeting.

Pastor Josh Ball, Grace House, reviewed the history of the church and the homeless shelter, the services provided, and the need for a homeless ministry in Bedford. He explained the services offered at the Grace House and said the ministry has helped over eighty people. Mr. Ball said Grace House is community supported and is run by volunteers.

Members of Council asked questions of Mr. Ball on a variety of topics regarding the homeless shelter which included: health care, mental health services, substance abuse, complaints of residents hanging around the shopping center, condition of the building, cooking facilities, fire doors, child care, and trash collection.

Mac Duis, Chief Operations Officer with Bedford County Schools, spoke about the need to find another location for the Liberty High School baseball team to practice and play home games because a new field is being constructed due to the construction of a new middle school. Mr. Davis said that next spring and the following spring the baseball team will need another field to use. He said that one of the fields discussed is at Liberty Lake Park. A preliminary estimate to make that field suitable for the team to use is \$27,000. Assistant Town Manager Warner said that information on the details of the costs has been forwarded to members of Council.

Councilman Stanley arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Members of Council asked Mr. Duis questions about the project.

Mayor Wandrei asked Mr. Duis to work with the staff and outline exactly what is wanted and who would pay for what.

Christie Crouch, IT Department, reviewed an information sheet regarding purchasing tablets for use by Town Council. Ms. Crouch said the initial cost of the tablets would be \$349 each through CDW-G, which is government pricing. She reviewed a detailed list of

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savings the Town would have by using tablets - \$1010.16 per year. Ms. Crouch said the grand total of the cost of seven tablets would be \$2,653.00 one-time charge.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wandrei stated the purchase of tablets would be added to the agenda of the regular Council meeting of August 23, 2016.

Town Manager Kolakowski reported that the Finance Committee had discussed the drainage issues at a meeting earlier in the day. He said it was the consensus of the committee that the staff go back and look at the list, prioritize the list, and explore possible funding solutions to the proposed list. The Town Manager said there has been one addition to the list and that he would anticipate several others being added. Mr. Kolakowski said the staff would be coming back to Council with an updated list and then possibly some options as to funding sources. He said there are several drainage issues the Town will be moving forward on.

Councilman Vest indicated that Council members will be receiving a list of the staff's priorities and the costs involved. He said the committee did talk about revenue sharing with the Virginia Department of Transportation for a portion of the cost.

Public Works Director Lawhorne reported the first two drainage issues that will be dealt with are: 1) Burks Hill Road behind Verizon and Liberty Lake Park 2) beside the Bank of America Parking Lot off of Bridge Street.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.